

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John Batiste**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Don't Let This Fourth of July Blow Up in Your Face!** *July 4<sup>th</sup> Second Deadliest Day of the Year*

July 4<sup>th</sup> is the second most deadly holiday period of the year – just behind New Year's. In 2004, at least 253 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes across America during the Fourth of July holiday period. Of those, 225 fatalities involved a driver, motorcycle operator or non occupant with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 and higher – the illegal limit in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

That is why District Eight, of the Washington State Patrol joins with other national, state and local law enforcement and highway safety officials in working overtime this year to remind anyone planning to use alcohol while celebrating Independence Day that *"Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving"* and to always remember to designate a sober driver before the celebrations begin.

Troopers in District Eight will focus their efforts in keeping the roadways safe for all the motorists. Troopers will be out in full force throughout the district:

**Poulsbo Detachment** (Kitsap County) - Troopers will conduct an emphasis patrol along SR 16 and SR 3 Friday June 30, 2006 in partnership with the Kitsap County DUI Traffic Safety Task Force. Troopers will also be utilizing extra overtime patrols throughout the holiday weekend. During the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend (July 1- 4) troopers arrested 4 people for DUI.

**Port Angeles Detachment** (Jefferson and Clallam Counties) - Troopers will be conducting overtime emphases patrols during the holiday weekend. During the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend (July 1- 4) troopers arrested 1 people for DUI.

**Shelton Detachment** (Mason County) – Troopers will be conducting emphases patrols along state routes in Mason County. During the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend (July 1- 4) troopers arrested 10 people for DUI.

**Hoquiam Detachment** (Grays Harbor County) - Troopers will be conducting an extra emphases patrol on the start of the holiday weekend for drivers traveling to the ocean beaches. During the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend (July 1- 4) troopers arrested 7 people for DUI.

**Naselle Detachment** (Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties) - Troopers will be conducting overtime emphases patrols during the holiday weekend. During the 2005 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend (July 1- 4) troopers arrested 8 people for DUI.

**District Eight**

*\*Clallam\*Jefferson\*Kitsap\*Mason\*Grays Harbor\*Pacific\*Wahkiakum\**

In addition to enforcement, troopers will be investigating collision and assisting disabled motorists. Troopers realize how disabled vehicles and collision scenes cause delays, and will make every attempt to clear the roadway as quickly as possible.

We want to encourage motorists who observe vehicles being operated dangerously to call 911 with a vehicle description, location and direction of travel.

“The number one goal for the troopers in District Eight is to keep drivers and passengers safe as they travel along the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula’s. Troopers assigned to district Eight understand our district is a popular tourist destination and will work extremely hard at keeping the public safe, so everyone has an enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend,” stated Captain Mark Thomas, District Eight Commander.

Much of the tragedy from drunk driving can be prevented with a few simple precautions before going out to celebrate:

- Whenever you plan on using alcohol, designate your sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;
- If you’re impaired, call a taxi, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
- Wearing your safety belt or using protective gear on your motorcycle is your best defense against an impaired driver;
- While traveling to and from celebrations on your motorcycle, remember to make yourself visible by riding your motorcycle where you can be seen to avoid a crash;
- And remember, *Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Don’t let this Fourth of July blow up in your face. Remember *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*. Designate your sober driver before the celebrations begin.

For more information, please visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org).

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